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USA TODAY 27 May 1983

Magazine: Barbie in coke ring while working for CIA

Accused Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie masterminded Bolivia's cocaine traffic to the USA in the 1970s while also working for the CIA, asserts Family Weekly magazine.

Barbie, awaiting trial in France, became a colonel in the Bolivian secret police and recruited 6,000 mercenaries to protect Bolivian drug traffic, the magazine reports. At the same time, he was reporting to the CIA, the magazine said.

The CIA has asked for permission to interview Barbie in jail, French officials said. The U.S. Justice Department is investigating whether Barbie worked for U.S. agents.